

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5153

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, RO
SUBJ: U.S. EXPORT CONTROL POLICY TOWARDS ROMANIA

REFS: (A) ROOT/BEACHNER LTR OF 6/20/78
(B) MOUNTAIN/MEYER LTR OF 5/4/78

1. EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST EVENTS OF
LAST SIX MONTHS REGARDING REVIEW OF EXPORT CONTROL POLICY
TOWARDS ROMANIA AND WE ARE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF BOTH STATE
AND COMMERCE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SOME LIBERALIZATION OR
EXPEDITING OF EXPORT LICENSE POLICY/PROCEDURES TOWARDS
ROMANIA.

2. SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE STRIKE US AS BEING
IMPORTANT. FIRST, THE TOPIC OF EXPORT CONTROLS HAS
RECEIVED AND CONTINUES TO RECEIVE ATTENTION AT THE
HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU REGARDING EXPORT CONTROLS WAS WELL
RECEIVED HERE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOR AMBASSADOR
IN WASHINGTON HAS DELIVERED TO THE NSC PRESIDENT
CEAUSESCU'S RESPONSE TO THAT LETTER.

3. SECOND, THE CARTER/CEAUSESCU EXCHANGE OF APRIL 13,
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1978 REGARDING DELAYS IN THE EXPORT LICENSING PROCESS
RESULTED IN AN NSC DIRECTIVE OF APRIL 22 TO THE
SECRETARIES OF COMMERCE, STATE, DEFENSE AND ENERGY
ASKING THAT INVOLVED AGENCIES "MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS
TO EXPEDITE THE (LICENSING) PROCESS FOR ALL COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING ROMANIA." THIRD, THE AGENCIES MOST DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS SEE IT IN BOTH THE

US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEREST TO SEEK AND SUPPORT SOME FORM OF CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROCESSING OF LICENSES FOR ROMANIA, ALL WITHIN THE PARAMETERS ESTABLISHED BY US SECURITY INTERESTS.

4. WHILE WE MIGHT HAVE HOPED THAT MORE WOULD EMERGE FROM THE FEB/MARCH INTERAGENCY REVIEW MEETINGS, WE DO UNDERSTAND THE VARYING OPINIONS AND PRESSURES THAT COME TO BEAR ON SUCH POLICY REVIEW MEETINGS. WHAT WE WOULD NOW HOPE IS THAT SOME OF THE FACTORS WE HAVE OUTLINE ABOVE, PARTICULARLY ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THIS ISSUE AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL, WILL LEAD TO MEANINGFUL CHANGE FOR ROMANIAN CASES IN THE COCOM PROCESS, AS WELL AS IN OEA HANDLING. THAT IS, TO ACCORD ROMANIA IN COCOM THE SAME FAVORABLE TREATMENT AS THAT WHICH IS RECEIVED BY POLAND AND TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING OF ROMANIAN CASES IN OEA AND THE INTER-AGENCY REVIEW PROCESS. WE DO RECOGNIZE THAT GOR'S PACT MEMBERSHIP LIMITS THE SCOPE OF THESE CHANGES, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT EVEN IO ACHIEVED, THEY ARE NOT THE SORT OF ACTIONS WE CAN REPORT TO THE GOR. NEVERTHELESS, WE FEEL THAT, IF CARRIED OUT, THESE CHANGES WILL RESULT IN A VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH KEY ECONOMIC MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL SIGNAL A POSITIVE, IF A NECESSARILY MUTED, DEVELOPMENT IN OUR OVERALL RELATIONS.

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5. THEREFORE, WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE STATUS OF THE "COMPREHENSIVE AND DEFINITIVE RATIONALE" BEING DEVELOPED BY EB/EWT AND COMMERCE/OEA IN RESPONSE TO REF (B). WE SUPPORT THIS EFFORT AND OFFER WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WE CAN GIVE YOU IN PERSUADING DOD OF THE BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A SPECIAL ROMANIAN POLICY IN COCOM. WITH REGARD TO THE OEA HANDLING OF ROMANIAN CASES, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RESPONSIVENESS OF OEA OFFICIALS. WE APPRECIATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MEET FREQUENTLY WITH GOR OFFICIALS ON THESE MATTERS, TO RESPOND PROMPTLY TO OUR INQUIRIES, AND TO SEEK WAYS IN WHICH FAVORABLE LICENSING ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN, WHERE POSSIBLE. WE HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL ENCOURAGE OEA OFFICIALS TO CONTINUE THIS APPROACH AS IT CLEARLY IS IMPROVING THE EXPORT CONTROL PROCESS AS REGARDS ROMANIA.
AGGREY

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